

The Canadian Horticulturist

Vol. XXXII

JULY, 1909

No. 7

A Decade of Nova Scotia Horticulture

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THE last ten years covers almost all the history of *advanced* horticulture in the province, mainly commercial apple growing and marketing. All over the Annapolis Valley are trees that must be able to tell tales of two or three centuries. These are called "French" trees by the farmers now, and how much of truth attaches to the term it is impossible to say. Many of these trees still bear small, bitter-sweet or very acid fruit, that is made into cider, and many have been and are still being grafted to commercial varieties. Up to thirty years ago, very little fruit found its way out of the province. The opening of the English market gave the great incentive to commercial fruit growing, and the Annapolis Valley has always kept the lead of the maritime provinces in this industry. A great many orchards were giving a good yield of apples of good varieties. As a proof of the good judgment of these old orchardists, it may be said that a list of about a dozen of the most popular commercial varieties of twenty-five years ago, is almost identical with a list decided upon at a meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia only three years ago.

THE PIONEERS

Among the pioneers of successful orcharding may be mentioned the names of Starr, Archibald, DeWitt and others, in King's county. To such men as these we owe the opening of trade across the water. But while these old orchards gave crops of good apples that were barrelled and exported to a small extent, the real awakening of thoughtful care and practice of intelligent methods has its history in the last ten or fifteen years. Before that, the great majority of orchards were expected to raise a crop of apples as well as an inter-tilled crop of potatoes or turnips and it is a fact worthy of note that a measure of success attended this practice which is still kept up in many orchards, especially those of young bearing age. Now, however, the best orchardists practice only clean thorough cultivation with cover crops of nitrogen-gathering plants.

PRUNING

The pruning of years ago left long bare limbs with a limited bearing area at the top. Now, the younger men are producing a tree capable of bearing fruit

uniformly throughout its whole volume of top.

PROGRESS IN SPRAYING

Spraying came next, and it is safe to say that ninety per cent. of the spraying done to-day has been begun in the last decade. The spraying of a dozen years ago was almost too crude to be called by the name in comparison with that of to-day. You could wash wagons and windows with the nozzles of that time, while now we get a mist almost like fog.

The varieties of fungicides and insecticides are becoming legion, and farmers are found willing to try every new one that comes along. Bordeaux mixture is becoming old-fashioned but is still hold-

Is Deserving

I am glad to learn that it is the intention of the management of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST to make the magazine of even more value and interest to its readers in the Maritime Provinces than it has been in the past. THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST deserves the best praise that has been bestowed upon it.—Prof. Percy J. Shaw, Agricultural College, Truro, N. S.

ing its own. An advance in the last few years is the application of winter sprays, of which the lime-sulphur wash promises to be a favorite. The prepared lime-sulphur is in use in some parts of the Valley.

PACKING AND MARKETTING

The packing and marketting of fruit is making great advances. The Fruit Marks Act has had the indirect effect of improving the quality by inciting the farmers to better methods, and the direct effect of making them pack better fruit. Box packing is a part of this decade's progress, is increasing every year, and bids fair in the next ten years to become an important factor in packing.

Under marketting, we have in common with other parts of the Dominion made progress in transportation facilities. The method of having fruit sold by commission merchants is much the same as at first but the organization of co-operative companies will, we hope, give direct buyers confidence to purchase

from these associations outright. This has been done already.

Educational advancement has also been rapid. The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association is a live body conducted and attended by the most intelligent men in the business. Year after year experts from all over the continent are giving us the benefit of the latest discoveries and successful practice, while the Institute speakers carry up-to-date knowledge to those not reached by the associations. The introduction and supervision of "model orchards" by the government is doing a great work in teaching methods, while horticulture is given a prominent place in the teaching of the Agriculture College at Truro.

While space will only allow of this brief sketch, it is enough to show that the last decade has accomplished more for this branch of country work than the hundred years before, and *we are just beginning*.

Arsenate of Lead

"Arsenate of lead is a much better poison for spraying on fruit trees than Paris green," said Mr. W. H. French, of Oshawa, to a representative of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, who visited that district last month. "It gives much better results as it remains in suspension longer and will not injure the foliage in any way.

"I find that it will kill 95% of codling moth while Paris green at its best, will not kill more than 75%. Arsenate of lead will remain on the foliage much longer than Paris green and, therefore, is effective for a longer time. It is a little more expensive but the difference in results easily makes up for that. I use five pounds to 100 gallons of water. To spray 300 trees costs me about \$1.75 more than it would for Paris green."

As this issue is pressed for space by articles from horticulturists in the maritime provinces, it has been found necessary to leave until next time the continuation of Professor Lochhead's excellent article on "The Principles of Plant Breeding."

Dwarf apple trees are produced by working upon slow-growing stock and by subsequent heading-in.